



Charlotte Sun

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BIOTECH COMPANY MOVES IN

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"This is exactly what ought to be happening in St. Pete and in Florida," Gov. Rick Scott said about the move at the announcement.

EXOTIC ANIMALS SHOT OWNER WAS DEEP IN DEBT

The man who killed himself after setting his wild animals free was "in over his head" in debt.

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Teacher accused of selling grades

By JEN WULF
STAFF WRITER

PUNTA GORDA — A math teacher at Charlotte High School is under investigation after a student accused him Monday of selling grades.

"The allegation was that there was money exchanged for a specific grade change on specific

tests, and the allegation was that that happened more than one time," Charlotte School Superintendent Doug Whittaker said.

The accused teacher, Jeff Spires, was placed on paid administrative leave when the investigation began, but as of Thursday he had been switched to unpaid leave due to developments in

the investigation, Whittaker said.

The incidents allegedly occurred this fall. Whittaker said he expected the investigation to be concluded by the end of the week. As of Thursday, no one else aside from the original student had stepped forward with allegations, but "as a matter of our investigation, we are covering a fairly

broad territory," Whittaker said.

Spires has worked for the Charlotte school district for nine years. Whittaker said he had a clean record. Whittaker said Spires is aware of the allegation, but the superintendent could not comment on whether Spires had confirmed or denied the charges. Spires could not be reached for com-

ment via phone, email or Facebook on Thursday.

"I think it would be appalling (if the allegations are true), because we're trying to teach our kids honesty, integrity and self-reliance," CHS Student Advisory Council chairman Tom Crocker said. He also said he doesn't want to draw conclusions until the investigation is

complete. "Until something comes out that not only implicates but proves that something like this happened, I'd hate to see someone persecuted for something they did or didn't do."

"This is the first time I've ever heard of this occurring firsthand," Whittaker said. "This is extremely rare."

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Gadhafi killed in battle

Libya's dictator for 42 years ousted in civil war

By CHRISTOPHER GILLETTE and KIM GAMEL
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITERS

SIRTE, Libya — Moammar Gadhafi, Libya's dictator for 42 years until he was ousted in an uprising-turned-civil war, was killed Thursday as revolutionary fighters overwhelmed his hometown of Sirte and captured the last major bastion of resistance two months after his regime fell.

The 69-year-old Gadhafi is the first leader to be killed in the Arab Spring wave of popular uprisings that swept the Middle East, demanding the end of autocratic rulers and the establishment of greater democracy.

"We have been waiting for this moment for a long time. Moammar Gadhafi has been killed," Prime Minister Mahmoud Jibril told a news conference in the capital of Tripoli.

There were conflicting accounts about Gadhafi's final hours, with the interim government saying he was captured unharmed and later mortally wounded in the crossfire from both sides. A second account described how he was already wounded in the chest when he was seized and later sustained the other wounds.

Interim government officials said one of Gadhafi's sons, his former national security adviser Muatassim, also was killed in Sirte, and another, one-time heir apparent Seif al-Islam, was wounded and captured.

Gadhafi's death decisively ends a regime that had turned Libya into an international pariah and ran the oil-rich nation by the whim and brutality of its notoriously eccentric leader.

Libya stands on the cusp of

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AP PHOTO

Above: Revolutionary fighters celebrate the capture of Sirte, Libya, Thursday. Officials in Libya's transitional government said Moammar Gadhafi was captured and possibly killed Thursday when revolutionary forces overwhelmed his hometown Sirte.

AP FILE PHOTO

In this 2004 photo, Libyan President Moammar Gadhafi is pictured in Tripoli, Libya. A U.S. official says Libya's new government has told the United States that Gadhafi, 69, is dead. The official said Libya informed U.S. officials in Libya of the development Thursday.

Locals speculate on future of Libya, Middle East

By JEN WULF
STAFF WRITER

After months of struggle in Libya, Moammar Gadhafi's death is just the beginning, say two local academics.

"It's the day after that I care about," said Samar Jarrah, a professor on the geopolitics of the Middle East at the University of South Florida. "Are they going to have an independent democratic system, or are they going to be allies of NATO and whatever NATO dictates?"

Jarrah opposed outside intervention in Libya, saying if the United States and other coun-

tries had not intervened in the conflict, rebels would have won more slowly but their victory would have been their own.

Jarrah, who also co-hosts a radio talk show on global policy, said she once hosted a young Libyan man who also opposed intervention based on U.S. involvement in Iraq. "You look at all the good intentions and you look at the mess, you look at the destruction. Where is democracy now?" Jarrah reported her guest said.

Hasan Hammami lectures on the Middle East at Edison State

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Deputy's credibility could upend court cases

By KATE BAXTER
STAFF WRITER

PUNTA GORDA — Prosecutors may be forced to dismiss any past or present criminal case in which former Charlotte County Sheriff's deputy Timothy Hamula played a significant role in investigating.

How many cases that could be is not yet known. Hamula, a road patrol

deputy based in the Englewood area, resigned from the Sheriff's Office last week after an internal affairs investigation found he allegedly fabricated dozens of traffic stops and falsified agency reports.

The 32-year-old Charlotte County man blamed his actions on pressure he said he felt under an alleged quota system, which, according

to a written statement Hamula made to Sheriff Bill Cameron, directed deputies to make four "contacts" every shift.

Hamula has declined requests for comment.

Cameron, who denied the use of quotas by his agency, was already planning to fire Hamula when he quit. He called the alleged actions of the

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Charlotte near top in long-term incomes

By GREG MARTIN
STAFF WRITER

Charlotte County ranks among the 10 metropolitan areas in the U.S. with the fastest long-term growth in total personal income, according to a Business Journals online publication called OnNumbers.

Also, six out of the top 10 metro areas on the list are in Florida.

Those facts should come as no surprise,

according to Dennis Murphy, community development director for Punta Gorda. He pointed out the Florida metro areas in the top 10 are all coastal cities that have seen rapid population growth. That means they draw retirees, and retirees have higher incomes after a lifetime of work and investment.

"You're looking at the baby boomers that can afford to retire," Murphy said. "When you're

living in the cold-blasted North, moving to Florida seems like a pretty good idea."

The magazine analyzed data from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis to rank 366 cities big and small for long-term total personal income growth between 1970 and 2010, and short-term income growth between 2000 and 2010.

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High
74
Low
62

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